

## Additional public meeting on plutonium disposition on September 18

September 1, 2012



The Department of Energy (DOE) has decided to extend through October 10 the public review and comment period for the Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An additional public hearing will take place on September 18 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building at Northern New Mexico College in Espanola.

The Draft SPD Supplemental EIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for disposition of 13.1 metric tons of surplus plutonium for which DOE has not made a disposition decision, including 7.1 metric tons of plutonium from pits that were declared excess for national defense needs. It also updates previous DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses on plutonium disposition to consider additional options for pit disassembly and conversion. Those options include processing plutonium metal components to produce an oxide form of plutonium suitable

for disposition and the use of mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabricated from surplus plutonium in domestic commercial nuclear power reactors to generate electricity. DOE is not revisiting the decision to fabricate 34 metric tons of surplus plutonium into MOX fuel in the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility now under construction at DOE's Savannah River Site in South Carolina, or to irradiate the MOX fuel in commercial nuclear reactors used to generate electricity.

Individuals who would like to present comments at this hearing should register upon arrival at the hearing. Speaking time will be allotted by the hearing moderator to each individual to ensure that all who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so. DOE representatives will be available during an open-house portion of these hearings to discuss the Draft SPD Supplemental EIS. Following a presentation by DOE, the public will have an opportunity to provide oral and written comments during the formal portion of the hearing.

For general information about the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-4600, or leave a message at 800-472-2756. Additional information regarding DOE NEPA activities and access to many of DOE's NEPA documents are available on the internet through the DOE NEPA website at <http://www.energy.gov/nepa>.

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